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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

NFAC 8255-80
24 December 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: [redacted] 25X1
Special Assistant for Nuclear Proliferation
Intelligence

SUBJECT: Warning Report--Nuclear Proliferation [redacted] 25X1

1. Action Requested: None; for your information

2. Background: The Interagency Intelligence Working Group on Nuclear Proliferation met on 17 December 1981 to discuss warning matters. A wide range of topics including nuclear developments in Iraq, Pakistan, India, and Brazil were reviewed for possible warning interest. The most significant development from a warning perspective concerned Iraq--the report on Iraq, based on the discussion, is attached. Developments in Taiwan were not discussed,

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NFAC 8255-80

SUBJECT: Warning Report: Nuclear Proliferation

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Attachment:
Warning Report

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24 December 1980

Warning Report: Nuclear Proliferation* (U)

Iraq. The Iraqis reportedly are engaged in attempts to illicitly acquire plutonium metal, and their intelligence service recently has been involved in the investigation of a possible supply of what might be enriched uranium. Reports so far indicate an effort to divert approximately 1.5 kilograms of plutonium from an Italian facility. We do not know if they were successful; nor do we know their ultimate acquisition goals--i.e., research quantities or stockpile quantities of material. Whether or not these materials actually have been obtained, this information further highlights Iraqi determination to vigorously pursue acquisition of the capability for a weapons option. We would not at this time want to change our estimates on timing for the Iraqi program. In the near term, however, Israeli awareness of Iraqi efforts to secretly acquire plutonium is likely to substantially heighten their concerns about the Iraqi nuclear threat to Israeli security. This could in turn change the perception of risk that they attach to some sort of preemptive action against the Iraqi nuclear program. On the Iraqi side, enormous earthen barriers have been constructed around their nuclear center at Tuwaitha to enhance its defense and protection from additional air attacks. [redacted] 25X1

*This memorandum is produced periodically by the Special Assistant to the DD/NFA for Nuclear Proliferation Intelligence. Its purpose is to review possible developments in the short-term future that would be damaging to US interests. Obviously, many of these developments will not occur in the time frame or in the manner suggested, or will not occur at all. 25X1

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